

Message Text

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S/S - MR. HOGANSON

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UNCLAS STATE 202506 TOSEC 100160

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS REPORTAGE, EVENING, MONDAY,
AUGUST 25

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS (FUNSETH)

NO. 16

1. WIRES: ALL 3 WIRES QUOTE SECRETARY AS SAYING PROGRESS
MADE IN TALKS WITH SADAT AND REPORT SPECULATION THAT TALKS
COULD BE CONCLUDED BY WEEK'S END.

(A) REUTERS (LARS NELSON) REPORTED FROM JERUSALEM "SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER SAID TODAY THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAD SUBSTANTIALLY AGREED ON NEW TROOP POSITIONS IN THE WESTERN SINAI DESERT. HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER MEETING TOP ISRAELI MINISTERS THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAD BEGUN EX-CHANGING DRAFT TEXTS OF A PROPOSED NEW INTERIM PEACE AGREEMENT. . . ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES, EGYPTIAN TROOPS WOULD ADVANCE, UNDER THE FORTHCOMING AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT, ACROSS THE PRESENT UNITED NATIONS BUFFER ZONE IN THE SINAI DESERT, AND, ON AT LEAST SOME POINTS ALONG THE LINE, WOULD OCCUPY POSITIONS NOW HELD BY ISRAELI TROOPS." REPORT ALSO SAID ISRAELI MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED THAT ISRAEL HAD ACCEPTED NO COMMIT-
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MENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH SYRIA ON RETURNING OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS UNDER THE INTERIM SETTLEMENT.

(B) AP (BARRY SCHWEID) REPORTING FROM JERUSALEM SAID

"SEASONED OBSERVERS" TOOK SADAT'S REMARK THAT NOTHING IN ACCORD WOULD BE SECRET AS "A GENERAL EXPRESSION OF OPENNESS AND NOT NECESSARILY OF YIELDING TO ISRAEL ON DISCLOSURE." REPORT SAID THAT ISRAEL HAD ALREADY AGREED THAT EGYPTIAN FORCES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ADVANCE INTO TERRITORY ALREADY HELD BY THE UN, BUT SADAT WAS DEMANDING MORE TERRITORY. PULL-BACK BEYOND UN ZONE WAS PART OF PRICE ISRAEL HAD TO PAY FOR KEEPING A SURVEILLANCE POST AT THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE GIDI PASS. THE DEAL ALSO PERMITS A BUILDUP IN EGYPTIAN TANKS FROM THE 36 NOW BEHIND THE UN PEACE-KEEPING ZONE TO 75 TANKS.

(C) UPI (GROWALD) REPORTING FROM TEL AVIV, QUOTED SECRETARY AS SAYING NO "UNEXPECTED DIFFICULTIES" HAD BEEN ENCOUNTERED AND "I THINK WE'RE FURTHER ALONG THAN WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED IN THE AREA."

2. NEWSPAPERS: LATIMES (OZZIE JOHNSTON) SAYS COMPLETE PACKAGE IS ONLY DAYS AWAY FROM AGREEMENT AND PLAYS UP AGREEMENT ON UMM KHAHEIBA WHICH HE REPORTS SECRETARY BROUGHT BACK FROM ALEXANDRIA ON SATURDAY. ROLE OF US TECHNICIANS IN POST WOULD BE SYMBOLIC ONE "PERHAPS IN NOMINAL COMMAND BUT WITH NO ACTUAL AUTHORITY." REPORTS SAY "KISSINGER HIMSELF MADE IT PLAIN IN A FEW SCATTERED STATEMENTS TO NEWSMEN THAT A BREAKTHROUGH ON THE OMM KHAHEIBA ISSUE IS VIRTUALLY ASSURED." REPORT ALSO CITED EVEN MORE CATEGORICAL STATEMENTS BY RABIN AND MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS RAFAEL THAT QUESTION OF ISRAELI CONTROL OF UMM KHAHEIBA WAS SOLVED. ARTICLE ALSO EMPHASIZED CAMPAIGN OF ISRAELI OFFICIALS TO PORTRAY AGREEMENTS POSITIVELY IN ISRAELI PRESS AND SAID SECRETARY "HAS HIMSELF BEEN ENLISTED IN THE TASK." ISRAELI OFFICIALS ARE BLAMING MUCH OF THE CURRENT PUBLIC OUTCRY IN ISRAEL ON EARLIER LEAKS WHICH "WERE INTENDED TO PREPARE PUBLIC OPINION TO ACCEPT THE ACCORDS BUT INSTEAD HAD THE OPPOSITE EFFECT."

3. TV:
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(A) NBC EVENING NEWS -- VALERIANI: "SECRETARY RETURNED TO ALEXANDRIA CARRYING A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON A KEY POINT: EGYPTIAN FORCES WILL BE ALLOWED TO MOVE FORWARD IN SOME OF THE AREA IN THE SINAI NOW OCCUPIED BY ISRAELI TROOPS. BUT MOST OF THE VACATED TERRITORY WILL BE DEMILITARIZED, AS ISRAEL WANTS. . . SADAT CLAIMED NO PART OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE KEPT SECRET. (SAME CLIP IN ABC AND CBS).

SADAT: 'NOTHING WILL BE SECRET.'
VALERIANI: "TODAY'S NEGOTIATING SESSION WAS BRIEF, BUT IT GENERATED ENOUGH PROGRESS THAT KISSINGER DECIDED TO RUSH BACK TO ISRAEL, EVEN THOUGH HE HAD EXPECTED TO REMAIN HERE

OVERNIGHT... SUDDENLY QUICKENED PACE OF KISSINGER'S SHUTTLING REFLECTS FACT THAT ONLY A FEW DETAILS OF A NEW SINAI SETTLEMENT REMAIN UNRESOLVED. EVEN SO, THE PROBLEM OF TRANSLATING SENSITIVE ORAL AGREEMENTS INTO FORMAL WRITTEN LANGUAGE WILL PROBABLY BE TIME-CONSUMING... BEFORE LEAVING, SECRETARY SAID MORE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON CLEARNING AWAY SOME OF THE REMAINING DIFFICULTIES. BACK IN ISRAEL, SECRETARY HEADED IMMEDIATELY FOR A MEETING WITH ISRAELI NEGOTIATORS, AND THERE WERE REPORTS THE CABINET WOULD BE CALLED INTO SPECIAL SESSION ON WEDNESDAY. ONCE AGAIN, DETAILED MAPS OF THE SINAI WERE TAKEN INTO THE TALKS AS THE PROCESS OF DRAWING THE NEW DEMARCACTION LINES NEARED AN END. KISSINGER IS DELAYING HIS PLANNED SIDE TRIPS TO SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN AND WILL RETURN TO EGYPT TOMORROW IN ORDER NOT TO INTERRUPT THE ACCELERATING MOMENTUM TOWARD AGREEMENT. THE DRAFTING OF A DOCUMENT READY FOR SIGNING NOW APPEARS TO BE ONLY A MATTER OF TIME."

TOM BROKAW ADDED: "SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD SAID TODAY THAT HE DOESN'T LIKE THE IDEA OF STATIONING AMERICAN CIVILIANS IN THE SINAI AS PART OF A NEW MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENT. MANSFIELD SAID HE DIDN'T BELIEVE THE CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE THE AGREEMENT IF IT INCLUDED THE USE OF AMERICANS."

(B) CBS EVENING NEWS ROGER MUDD: "PRESIDENT FORD SAID IN MILWAUKEE THAT HE EXPECTS AN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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ON THE SINAI WITHIN A WEEK. THAT OPTIMISM WAS ECHOED IN THE MIDDLE EAST BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, WHO SAID BOTH SIDES NOW WERE TALKING IN SPECIFICS."

KALB: "THE FAMILIAR SADAT EMBRACE WELCOMED HENRY KISSINGER TO ALEXANDRIA THIS MORNING -- BUT BEHIND THE EASY CAMARADARIE, A RECOGNITION THAT THERE ARE STILL OUTSTANDING ISSUES, THOUGH A SUCCESSFUL AGREEMENT IS EXPECTED. TODAY'S MEETING APPARENTLY FAILED TO RESOLVE DISPUTE OVER EXACTLY WHERE TROOP SEPARATING LINE SHOULD BE DRAWN IN THE SINAI. EGYPTIANS WANT EVEN MORE ISRAELI CONCESSIONS SO THEY CAN MAKE MORE SYMBOLIC ADVANCES INTO TERRITORY TO BE RELINQUISHED BY ISRAEL. ANOTHER POSSIBLE HANGUP: THE ISRAELIS ARE PUSHING FOR PUBLICATION OF CONCESSIONS BY BOTH SIDES; THE EGYPTIANS PUSHING FOR SECRECY OF CERTAIN EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS SO AS NOT TO BE EMBARRASSED IN FRONT OF HER ARAB BROTHERS... TODAY WAS AN EXAMPLE OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY IN ITS SWIFTEST FORM: KISSINGER ARRIVING FROM JERUSALEM BEFORE NOON IN THIS COASTAL CITY ON THE MEDITERRANEAN, SPENDING ABOUT TWO HOURS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, THEN SHUTTLING BACK TO JERUSALEM TO TELL THE ISRAELIS WHAT THE EGYPTIANS HAD TOLD HIM. THE ISRAELIS LISTENED TO KISSINGER'S REPORT TONIGHT -- MUCH OF WHAT BOTH SIDES ARE

SAYING TONIGHT BEING REGARDED AS TACTICAL MANEUVERING AS THE AGREEMENT MOVES TOWARD AN EXPECTED SUCCESSFUL FINALE. KISSINGER RETURNS TO ALEXANDRIA TOMORROW."

(C) ABC EVENING NEWS HARRY REASONER LEADS WITH: "SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER REPORTS THAT HE IS MAKING PROGRESS IN HIS SHUTTLE TALKS BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI LEADERS..."

TED KOPPEL: "JUST BEFORE DAYBREAK TODAY IN JERUSALEM, THE ANTI-AGREEMENT AND ANTI-KISSINGER DEMONSTRATORS WERE STILL AT IT, THIS TIME USING SYMBOLIC SACRIFICIAL CALVES. AND AS KISSINGER LEFT FOR ALEXANDRIA TODAY, THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WAS BEGINNING TO RESPOND TO THE PRESSURE. THE SUBSTANTIVE PART OF THE AGREEMENT, A US OFFICIAL SAID TODAY, IS 95 PERCENT WRAPPED UP. NEVERTHELESS, SECRETARY KISSINGER CAME HERE TO EGYPT THIS MORNING CARRYING A NEW ISRAELI DEMAND -- AND ONE UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT POTENTIALLY COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS. CONSIDERABLE SEGMENT OF AGREEMENT WAS, UNTIL YESTERDAY, SUPPOSED TO BE PRIVATE. BUT ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER RABIN . . . HAS TOLD SECRETARY THAT HE WANTS SOME OF THOSE PRIVATE UNDERSTANDINGS TO BECOME PART OF PUBLIC AGREEMENT . . ."

RE SADAT'S "NOTHING WILL BE SECRET" STATEMENT, KOPPEL CONTINUED SADAT'S "ADVISORS WARNED NEWSMEN THAT THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT HAD BEEN REFERRING ONLY TO THE DIRECT AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL, AND THAT HE HAD NOT MEANT TO EXCLUDE ANY PRIVATE UNDERSTANDINGS WITH US. TO PUBLICIZE CONCESSIONS THAT SADAT IS PREPARED TO MAKE INDIRECTLY AND PRIVATELY TO ISRAEL THROUGH THE US WOULD HELP PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND HIS POLITICAL PROBLEMS, BUT COULD MAKE ANWAR SADAT A VERY LONELY MAN WITHIN THE ARAB WORLD. AS SECRETARY RETURNED TO ISRAEL TONIGHT, ISSUE HAD NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED; BUT FEELING PERSISTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES THAT, HAVING COME THIS FAR, NO ONE IS PREPARED TO LET THE NEGOTIATIONS FAIL AGAIN."

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